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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 4 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and with reference to our previous letters concerning Israeli aggression against Lebanon, the latest of which is dated 31 January 1991 (S/22184), I have the honour to transmit herewith information concerning the acts of aggression carried out since that date by Israel.

On Thursday, 31 January 1991, at 0800 hours, the artillery of the Israeli occupation forces and the militia known as the "South Lebanon Army", which collaborates with the Israeli forces and is concentrated within the occupied zone, began the indiscriminate and destructive bombardment in southern Lebanon and the western Bekaa of dozens of villages and of Palestinian camps, particularly, in Rashidieh, east of Sidon, Tyre and Nabatieh, causing numerous deaths and wounding dozens of persons among the civilian population.

Israeli warships participated in the bombardment of the camps in Rashidieh and the coastal zone, while Israeli helicopters fired missiles at villages. Bombs and missiles were directed at the villages of Jarjouh, Sarba, Ain Qana, Arabsalim, Ain Boussoire, Mlita, Jeba'a, Kfarmelki and the villages of east Sidon, as well as the Lebanese army barracks in Tyre and the built-up areas of Houmine El-Fawka, Houmine El-Tahta, Habbouche, Zahrani, Kfar Roummane, Deir El-Zahrani, Nabatieh and throughout the villages of the eastern area of the western Bekaa, particularly Ain Tine, Machgara, Qaraoun and Qilia.

The bombardment caused such large-scale damage to houses and property that civil defence vehicles were unable to evacuate the numerous wounded persons because of the intensity of the ground, naval and air bombardment.

The bombardment continued for the last three days, during which Israeli motorized forces entered the occupied zone and numerous Israeli combat aircraft overflew southern Lebanon and many warships cruised along the Lebanese coast between Nagoura and Sidon.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns this serious Israeli military escalation and intrusion into Lebanese territory violating the sovereignty of the Lebanese State and the security of its citizens and draws the attention of the international community to these events, which have occurred at the very time when the Lebanese State decided to deploy Lebanese Army units in the region adjacent to the occupation zone as a first step towards re-establishing its sovereignty over its territory; as usual, whenever the Lebanese State endeavours to strengthen security and stability in the country by using its regular forces, Israel strives to thwart these efforts by force in accordance with its unremitting policy of destroying Lebanon by undermining the stability and security of the country in general and of southern Lebanon in particular.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under the agenda item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalil MAKKAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative